



**Welcome to**  
**The Montessori District Program**  
School District #43 Coquitlam

# The Montessori Philosophy

The key concepts of the Montessori philosophy are:

- individual student choice in learning (freedom within limits)
- balance between whole class lessons and individual lessons
- independent work with self-checking materials
- individual exploration of curriculum guided by the teacher

## *Individualization*

- **varied pace** that accommodates many levels of ability
- **continually challenged** by the wide variety of materials
- **self-motivated** learning is imperative.

# *Citizenship*

- Children are taught to respect each other, their classroom, and the school environment
- In **multi-age classrooms** older children are given many opportunities to be of assistance, often teaching the younger ones.
- All children are encouraged to **evaluate their own** personal work and progress.

# *Experiential Learning*

- **learning through experience** and the variety of materials used by the children satisfies this need to learn by doing.
- Children learn by **choice** as they select materials and/or activities that interest them. The teacher observes the children at work and encourages them to choose more challenging materials, as their skills develop.
- Many Montessori materials are made to be **self-correcting** so that the children may discover their own mistakes and learn from them.

# How the Program operates within the School District

- The School District is responsible for offering and providing classroom space for the program in schools where it deems classroom space to be “available”.
- Teachers that are hired for this alternate program must meet the requirements as mandated by the Province of British Columbia as well as provide proof of additional Montessori Teacher training.
- The **Coquitlam Montessori Society** (a non-profit group of parent volunteers) liaises with teachers, the school district and parents from the schools in the whole district, to provide financial support for the purchase of classroom equipment and to provide assistance for the professional development of the Montessori teachers in the school district.
- There are regular meetings within the district where all partner groups are invited to get together and collaborate on how the program will progress in the district.

# Parents as Partners

- While there is no formal obligation to *belong to the Coquitlam Montessori Society*, it is strongly recommended that parents choose to be active financial contributors to the society. *It is through membership and active participation through volunteerism that the program has evolved to become one of the largest, most reputable and highly successful programs in the Province of British Columbia.*